

Village Board of Trustees
Village of Sackets Harbor
Meeting Minutes
May 15, 2012

Present: Mayor Eric Constance, Deputy Mayor Daniel Frechette, Trustee Lawrence Barone, Trustee Peter Daly, Trustee John LaDuc.

Minutes

Mayor Constance reviewed the meeting minutes from the April 10, 2012 board meeting. Deputy Mayor Frechette moved to approve the minutes; Trustee Daly seconded the motion. Vote 5-0; all in favor.

Mayor Constance reviewed the meeting minutes from the April 3, 2012 budget review board meeting. Trustee LaDuc moved to approve the minutes; Trustee Daly seconded the motion. Vote 5-0; all in favor.

Mayor Constance reviewed the meeting minutes from the March 8, 2012 budget review board meeting. Trustee LaDuc moved to approve the minutes; Trustee Barone seconded the motion. Vote 5-0; all in favor.

Mayor's Report

Murray Maxon - Citizen of the Year

Mayor Constance proclaimed and appointed Murray Maxon – Citizen of the Year for 2012. The Village is grateful to Murray for his numerous contributions. He made our Village a great place to live, relax and enjoy: Village Trustee, Chamber President, Can Am Committee, innovative tourism initiatives throughout the village, electric car tours, Old Timers Baseball and member of the Thousand Island Council.

Mayor Constance explained that the board hopes Mr. Maxon will be in the Village around Memorial Day and be able to participate in that parade and receive his proclamation at that time.

There was a round of applause for the selection and in appreciation of all Mr. Maxon has done for the village.

National Grid is sponsoring a course called Crash Course in Economic Development, Tuesday June 19. Mayor Constance encouraged the board and anyone who is interested to attend.

Village Attorney, Dave Geurtson, wrote to inform the board that a town or city can vote by referendum, to ban certain sales of alcohol but there is no provision for a village to do so. Another approach he suggested was lobbying the liquor authority since they have some power to impose conditions on operations, including requiring training for service staff, to identify and reduce serving customers who are inebriated.

Discussion regarding the need to reduce drunkenness in the village ensued.

Standardized street lighting – DPW Superintendent, Lonny Reinhardt reported that there are currently three different types of street lights in various residential areas. Because of the variety, the DPW keeps a large inventory of spare parts. Mr. Reinhardt recommended standardizing all new and replaced street lights and believes Robinson Iron Works have the best history of repairs in the village, fewer failures and is a better design. Examples of these lights are on Main Street, Bayview Place and Battlefield Commons; he strongly recommends these fixtures.

Mayor Constance asked for input from the board regarding standardization of the fixtures and the “dark sky standards”. Planning Board Chairman Gary Gibson noted that the planning board did not make any judgment regarding the poles, nearly the lighting fixture that points down instead of the light going up. DPW Superintendent Lonny Reinhardt, noted that the company has stated they are willing to work on a dark sky design.

Trustee Barone agreed standardization would allow the village to manage the cost of maintenance when a new development is constructed. Deputy Mayor Frechette moved to approve standardizing the lighting installations in new developments; Trustee Daly seconded the motion. Vote 5-0; all in favor.

Mayor Constance presented a letter from the Department of Transportation regarding a project grant for safe routes to school. Trustee Barone will take a look into it.

Town of Hounsfield request to use 250,000 gallons to flush mains during the construction phase of District 5. Mayor Constance noted that part of District 2 may be moving to District 5. He is concerned about the high water use in the summer time and thinks he should sit with the Town Board and come up with an agreement and a time table.

Village Engineer, Kris Dimmick discussed the project, stating the Town would like to tie in to the pipe at the military road; the other option is to bring the water in from the city which would require manual operation of the interconnect valve during flushing.

A preconstruction conference is tomorrow and should give an idea of the time frame it will be needed.

Trustee Daly stated he believed they should go elsewhere for their water needs. Mr. Dimmick said he thought the water would be needed in June. Trustee LaDuc asked about precedents and water pricing.

Mayor Constance reported that the Village Attorney suggested there be a written agreement in place. Mayor Constance expressed concerns about users moving from District 2 to District 5 and about increased use at the Robbins’ Farm, and the new Morgia’s beach service area. Mayor Constance suggested they meet with the Town board. The subject was tabled.

Mayor Constance reviewed a letter from Mr. Paul Jesse, supporting the proposed new zoning law and expressing support to for village residents who are requesting approval to install a vinyl fence.

Heritage Area Director, Dave Altieri, is waiting for the new zoning map from EDR and something from the state before he turns it over to the board.

The Village attorney has a concern regarding waterfront management law being included in the new law.

Discussion ensued regarding the process to make amendments to the current zoning law. Trustee LaDuc suggested that the new law not be rushed, but that a few small amendments to the current law might be good in the short run. Trustee Barone expressed concern that to amend the law to allow vinyl would be too wide a definition, since there are so many types of vinyl on the market. He suggested the new law continue to be worked on and used when it is ready.

Jefferson County Soil and Water Conservation District wrote to offer the village assistance. They are inventorying trees using global positioning systems. It can also be used to leverage grant funds to plant trees in the village. The grant is 50/50 match , possibly no out of pocket to the village. Trustee Barone will investigate further.

Mayor Constance reviewed Nancy Hansen's qualifications for membership on the Zoning Board of Appeals. Trustee Daly moved to approve the appointment, Deputy Mayor Frechette seconded the motion. Vote 5-0 in favor.

Sackets Harbor Leasing Corp.

The second circuit court of appeals has scheduled oral argument in the lawsuit against the village by Sackets Harbor Leasing Corporation.

1812 Bicentennial Trail - Mayor Constance reviewed the time line from Lu Engineers, Bid opening scheduled for 7/18/2012.

Mayor Constance reviewed guidelines for restoration of historic site markers.

War of 1812 Bicentennial funding – tentative budget

\$2,000 programming events 2012 – two speakers

\$3,000 advertising and promotion 2012-2014

Monument – 2013 - \$3,000

\$10,000 programming events – grand tactical 2013

\$5,000 programming events 2014

Stone Hospital – Mayor visited recently to review the current state of the building. DPW executed some needed repairs and Mayor Constance believes it is currently secure.

Mayor Constance reviewed letter from Department of State regarding funding for grant categories: Preparing or implementing regional and local strategies for community and waterfront revitalization, redeveloping hamlets, downtowns and urban waterfronts, planning or constructing land and water based trails, preparing or implementing a watershed management plan.

Trustee Barone suggested the LDC take over the renovation of the Stone Hospital. Discussion regarding need for capital to leverage the grant money. The restoration of the bank building took 20 years of volunteer work.

NYCOM ethics training workshops in the Watertown region – June 13, 2012 at the Adams Fire Hall 10am-12pm

Battlefield Alliance will present a Tale of Two Dockyards May 29th.

ISO audit and rating – our classification has been lowered from a 5/9 to a 6/9. this reflects a miniscule change in cost to a property owner's insurance. Letter of response has been sent. Many changes require the fire department to document their efforts and implement a few new efforts.

New Zoning Law – letter from Sandy and Bill Farrington regarding the time frame for the new zoning law and their application before the ZBA to be allowed to erect a vinyl fence.

Economic Development Director

Mayor Constance discussed the position; he believes this will be a part time person and should be hired even if the Town of Hounsfield is not able to participate. Asked Trustees for discussion. Trustee Barone expressed his concern about the position and asked if a consultant had been considered, as opposed to a part time person.

Mayor Constance indicated that they are looking for someone from the community who wants to work within the community to do some good, not someone who is looking at this as a financial opportunity.

Heritage Area Director, Dave Altieri noted that the committee did discuss the possibility of using a consultant, but felt that the ideal candidate is someone who lives in the community and is willing to do the job for the love of the community.

Mayor Constance noted that the rest of the county is working on comprehensive economic strategies; he is working with them and believes the program they are using can be brought into our village and be implemented.

If someone is put in place to follow up on direction from the board and the chamber, it will produce dividends. Regional economic development has many programs that we need to be a part of.

The Mayor moved to approve sponsorship of the position, even if the Town of Hounsfield is unable to participate; Trustee Daly seconded the motion. Vote 4-1; Trustee Barone opposed.

Can Am Festival

Request submitted to Mike Campbell to use the shoreline at Madison Barracks to set off the fire works.

Water Plant Upgrade

Village Engineer, Kris Dimmick reported that he is waiting for feedback from DOH on the design of the water plant. He will give the Mayor an updated time line as soon asl possible.

Open House Reception at the Police Department and the Sewer Treatment Plant.

May 22 12-3pm

Mr. Dimmick noted that our reception is mentioned on Governor Cuomo's web site.

Memorial Day

Parade will start around 10:15am. The Town and Village Boards are requested to attend. Lt. Col Mintz will bring 100 soldiers and a color guard to march in the parade, along with the Citizen of the Year.

Parade will end at the bandstand where the Memorial Ceremony will take place.

Fort Pike Pike and Visitor Center Grant

Heritage Area Director, Dave Altieri noted that money can be spent on the tail at Fort pike and the exhibit at the visitor center. Still waiting for the State Historic Preservation Office. Dave Altieri will confirm payment availability for the Harrienger fence.

Bids for video equipment are being worked on for the end of year meeting. Bids for the exhibit work will be next month.

Morgia's Beach Water

Water meters are being installed. Need Attorney Geurtson to work on the easements.

End of Year Board Meeting set for May 30th at 8:30am

OLD BUSINESS

None

NEW BUSINESS

None

PUBLIC COMMENT

Don DiMonda – Bayview Place – Mr. DiMonda described to the Board two incidents involving drunken individuals stumbling through the neighborhood absolutely unable to function, respond, and trying to get into his house. This is the second time a drunk has come to the door in the middle of the night. He has heard from others that this has happened elsewhere and is a serious problem. Mayor Constance talked about training for bar tenders and managers regarding serving alcohol to those already inebriated. Officer Coseo noted that there are groups certified by the state liquor authority who do this training.

Paul Windover – General Smith Drive – Mr. Windover reported that there was glass all over the area in front of Goodfellows on Mother's Day and the DPW had to clean it up. Officer Coseo stated he had understood that the glass had come from the Boathouse Restaurant and noted that the glass was also all over Chapin Alley. This same night a severely inebriated individual entered Ontario Place Hotel and refused to leave.

Gary Gibson – Dodge Ave – Mr. Gibson stated that he has a habit of walking very late at night and has witnessed groups of males in their early 20's, at least half of them seriously inebriated, walking toward the Barracks on Friday and Saturday nights around at 1am – 2:30am. He has seen them walk down General Smith Drive and turn up Bayview, instead of turning in to the Barracks. HE has not seen them down Dodge Ave.

Merle Toussant – General Smith Drive – Mr. Toussant reported that he has witnessed drunks sleeping on lawns, a pedestrian hit by an automobile, and someone filling a beer bottle with lighter fluid and tossing it into a yard. He stated that he wants to know why the restaurants don't have a responsibility to uphold the open container law. Every other person that passes has a beer bottle. Officer Coseo stated that the restaurants are not supposed to let patrons exit the premises with a beer bottles.

Vince Battista – Dodge Ave – Mr. Battista reported that his store will only sell beer to an individual who can produce proper identification and they will not sell to someone who is already intoxicated. He stated that he is disappointed that this board put through a budget that reduced the police department to nothing; he is very upset as a business owner and resident that the police budget is as low as it is and believes the Board is doing the village a disservice. He further stated that incidents will continue to happen and we need to give the police the ability to staff when needed. It is not the Village responsibility to go to these bars to train people, they are responsible to the ABC.

Mayor Constance thinks the Village can help in some fashion with this training program. It has been done in the past and has not been done in some time; he hopes bringing it to the attention of the owners and managers, will bring them to the table.

Vince Rose – E. Main Street – Mr. Rose stated that a much broader problem is vandalism. He has experienced it at his B&B and states that the Tot Lot (Stoodley Park) is being taken over at night as a hook place for the teen. In the morning it is filled with trash. He believes this comes down to the lack of presence of law enforcement. In the long run cutting the police budget will cost the village its reputation.

Andy Hanzlian – W. Main St – Mr. Hanzlian stated that he agrees with Mr. Rose and when he comes home late, he sees drunken crowds in the street. He reiterated that there should be police walking the street and sitting on General Smith Drive.

Mayor Constance asked Mr. Hanzlian when he thought the police presence changed. Mr. Hanzlian stated the change has been over the last couple of years and particularly this spring.

Mayor Constance affirmed that the budget for the police department has been unchanged for the past five years and the reduction in the budget has not occurred yet. The reduction was made to encourage the use of officers who are part of the local community. The budget has not changed in the last five years. If the officers are not where they need to be, we need to address that.

Betsy Stoker – Hounsfield Street – Mrs. Stoker reported that an accident on the corner of Hounsfield and Dodge was caused by someone speeding and under the influence of drugs or alcohol. She is concerned that someone is going to get killed by one of these speeders.

Dave Harrienger – Bayview Place – Mr. Harrienger reported that he has experienced intoxicated individuals trying to get into his house and he has seen others drive across the vacant lots.

Andy Hanzlian asked, “Is it because of the budget that we don’t have police on the streets anymore?” Gary Gibson reported that in the last three years, it is rare to see an officer between midnight and 2am.

Vince Battista stated that inflation has gone up and created a change in the budget.

Mayor Constance reiterated the need to work with the bars and restaurants and take a look at the policing schedule.

TRUSTEE REPORTS

Deputy Mayor Frechette – nothing further to report.

Trustee Barone – reported that the marketing committee is recommending advertising in Group Tour magazine, through the Thousand Island Council for an additional \$100 expense. Motion to authorize the expenditure made by Trustee Barone; seconded by Trustee LaDuc. Vote 5-0; all in favor.

Trustee LaDuc – reported that the Joint Recreation Committee will have an open forum on May 22 at 7pm to share ideas they are working on. Patriot Pride Day went well, the students worked at Stoodley Park, Waterworks Park and the Visitor Center. Mr. LaDuc said a big thanks to all who supported the program.

Trustee Peter Daly – reported that he is following up on the ISO meeting. The plan for the fire department buildout is being drafted by Bernier Carr and Associates. He will be meeting tomorrow regarding the last of the Stoodley Park construction.

CORRESPONDENCE

The following event permit applications were unanimously approved by the Board.

5/20/2012 – Cystic Fibrosis Foundation – Bandstand and Village Streets

5/26/2012 – Sackets Harbor Chamber of Commerce – Parking Lot in front of Municipal Building and restrooms

6/25-6/29/2012 - River Rat Rhythm project (concert Friday 6/29 7pm) – Bandstand - 10am-7:15pm

7/26/2012 – Alzheimers Association Educational Program – Municipal Building 7-8.30pm

7/28/2012 – Sackets Harbor Fire Company Auxiliary – Use of Bandstand for Garden Tour 8-1pm

8/5/2012 – Historical Society – Bandstand – 3-5pm Opera Reel String Band (Part of Concerts on Waterfront)

8/18/2012 – Alzheimers Association Walk – Beginning and ending at School – request use of Village Roads

9/29/2012 – Sackets Harbor Fire Company – Run4Garrett– begin and end at American Legion– Request use of Village Roads

Trustee Peter Daly moved to approve the applications; seconded by Trustee Barone. Vote 5-0; all in favor.

Treasurer's Report, Jim Yuhas

Treasurer Yuhas reviewed his monthly report.

Receipts - \$193,675.61

Disbursements - \$270,701.19

Total cash in bank - \$93,374.67

Investments - \$1,550,000.00

Debt - \$6,651,500.00

Joint Recreation fund balance – (-\$732.50)

Joint Recreation investments - \$17,000.00

Trustee Daly moved to approve the treasurer's report; seconded by Trustee LaDuc. Vote 5-0; all in favor.

Treasurer Yuhas reviewed the amount of water and sewer bills to be relevied to the village tax - \$86,459.36

Mayor Constance moved to accept the relevy amount; Trustee Daly seconded the motion. Vote 5-0; all in favor.

Mayor Constance moved to authorize Treasurer, James Yuhas to collect the Tax Warrant in the amount of \$453,595.36; seconded by Trustee Barone. Vote 5-0; all in favor.

Mayor Constance and Trustee Daly reviewed the bills for the month.

Abstract #12, Voucher #945-1048 = \$201,152.82

Mayor Constance reviewed the cost of the credit card machine at the visitor center which costs about \$700 a year. He believes that the amount sold at the visitor center does not generate enough to be worthwhile.

Asked Gail Gorgen to look into the credit card service.

Trustee Daly moved to approve paying the monthly bills; seconded by Trustee Daly.

Vote 5-0; all in favor.

DEPARTMENT HEAD REPORTS

DPW Superintendent, Lonny Reinhardt

Mr. Reinhardt is getting proposals and estimates on the porch repair. The bandstand needs some touch up too.

Gail Gorgen – Visitor Center Manager

This Friday a military bus tour will arrive at the visitor center.

In the month of June there are 7 gazebo weddings and 6 bus tours.

Village Engineer, Kris Dimmick –Discussion regarding Edmund Street becoming one way from Ambrose Street toward Broad Street. Lonny noted that farm equipment, tractor trailer deliveries to

the plant and to the farm would need to go down S. Broad to W. Washington – this would impact a greater number of people.

Mr. Dimmick said the DOT would have to be consulted on a road being changed to one way.

Village Police, Richard Coseo

First part of January – arrested youth for breawking into empty home and engaging in illicit behavior

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First part of May there was an attempted break in attempt at Watertown Savings Bank ATM. They have since been arrested.

The Sheriffs are working on a business that was broken into in May too.

There have been arrests made regarding drug transactions taking place in the open at Ambrose and W. Washington.

Mayor Would like to put together a group to discuss the police enforcement in the village. Officer Coseo, reported that the village police department currently uses sheriff's deputies as part time qualified people but they are on 12 hour shifts and it is difficult to fill the hours needed in the village. He stated that more money in the budget will help acquire better trained people. John LaDuc volunteered to put together a group of residents to meet with Officer Coseo and Mayor Constance to talk about program.

Heritage Area Director, David Altieri – nothing further to report

Planning Board, Chairman Gary Gibson – five public hearing tomorrow night. Will be a big agenda.

Hay Memorial Library; President Beth Burdick – report on circulation and programs submitted.

Chamber of Commerce - Board President, Anita Prather Harvell reminded the Board that the annual Village wide yard sale will take place on Monday May 28 and if anyone wants to be on the map, to call Barbara McKeever.

The 2012 visitors guide is now available. The Chamber's May meet and greet is may 23rd at Sackets Harbor Brewery.

Mayor moved to adjourn the meeting at 9:01pm; seconded by Trustee LaDuc. Vote 5-0; all in favor.

Respectfully submitted,
Gertrude Mead Karris
Village Clerk